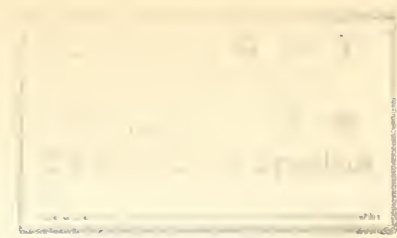


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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

February 1 1922.

"Keeping everlastingly at it brings success." Results often come slowly in extension work and the workers are liable to become discouraged with the progress they are making. The above quotation is well worth keeping in mind and when things do not move quite to our liking just keep everlastingly at it but plan carefully and make every move count.

Office of Horticultural and Pomological Investigations
and States Relations Service Cooperating.
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.

Work Accomplished and Projected.

Within the past few days we have been called upon to furnish progress reports upon the work being conducted in extension horticulture from the standpoint of the Department. In view of the short apple crop in most sections much of the demonstration work in spraying was discontinued for the past season. For this reason it will be extremely important that more thorough spraying be done the coming season in order to overcome the results of the neglect last season. So far prospects for fruit in 1922 are excellent and it is now time to advocate an active campaign to combat both insect and disease pests.

Extension work with vegetables has received great impetus during the past year and the results of demonstrations conducted by the state workers have been largely accepted by the growers. The outstanding problems confronting the horticultural specialists in the states consist mainly of the following:

Securing of improved seeds and the development of better strains of our common vegetables.

The problem of adequate and reliable certification of seed potatoes both Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes.

The problem of maintaining soil fertility of our fruit and truck lands under a greatly diminished supply of stable manure.

The control of insects and diseases of horticultural crops through spraying, crop rotation and other methods.

The growing, storage and marketing of sweet potatoes which have become an important commercial crop in no less than 24 states.

The profitable production of canning crops, especially of tomatoes, peas and corn has presented a distinct problem for the extension workers of several states. Fortunately the work of the investigational forces along these lines has progressed to a point where the extension worker has something definite to base his demonstrations upon.

The personnel of the horticultural extension forces has not changed to such a degree during the past year as during the previous year and the men are now undertaking the work from a standpoint of greater permanency. State workers, restricted to a considerable degree regarding travel outside their own states, have little opportunity to observe the methods being followed by others. Certain problems, like the seed potato proposition, are regional and it is very essential that there be a definite understanding among the workers of the several states involved. Cases have been observed recently where the horticultural specialists in two adjoining or practically adjoining states were advocating different methods of control and it is our aim to standardize both the methods of doing the work and the subject matter used in all the states having common horticultural problems. With this end in view we have visited altogether about 20 of the states during the past year and we trust have reached every one doing horticultural extension work through the "Extension Horticulturist."

Death Claims Another Horticultural Worker.

In the death of Dr. Walter Van Fleet on the night of January 26th at Miami, Florida, the United States has lost one of the greatest plant hybridizers in its history. Dr. Van Fleet was born at Piermont, N. Y. in 1857, graduated from Hahneman Medical College, Philadelphia in 1880 and took post graduate work at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1886-7. He practised medicine for a number of years near Williamsport, Pennsylvania, but his love for plant breeding which began in 1880 so took possession of him that in 1892 he gave up his medical practice and devoted himself to plant work. In this work he lived successively near Mount Vernon, Virginia, with the Conard & Jones Company, West Grove, Pa., in western Tennessee and in 1899 he went to the trial grounds of the Rural New Yorker at Little Silver, New Jersey. In 1909, Dr. Van Fleet came to the U. S. Department of Agriculture to take up plant breeding work and where he remained until his death.

Among Dr. Van Fleets greatest accomplishments in the line of plant breeding are a number of very excellent varieties of roses and a recent cross between the chestnut and chinquapin promises a means of producing good chestnuts in spite of the ravages of the chestnut bark disease. Lately Dr. Van Fleet had taken great interest in the establishment of the Department plant breeding station near Washington and his death will prove a great loss to the work. Dr. Van Fleet was the recipient of many honors including the Geo. White Medal of Honor for eminent services in horticulture by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the greatest honor that can come to horticulturists in this country.

Callers at this Office.

Among those who have called within the past month are Prof. T.C. Johnson, Director of the Virginia Truck Experiment Station at Norfolk, Prof. C. D. Matthews and Mr. L. H. Nelson of the State Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, North Carolina and Prof. H. A. Jones of the University of Maryland. We are looking forward to the time when every horticultural extension worker in the states will get into Washington once a year at least and have some time to spend with us. Many of those who do come scarcely have time to pass the time of day but we would like to have the boys hang around long enough for us to acquaint them with some of the things we have here in the Department. Our time is limited but we always have time to visit with those who are doing extension work in the states. Come often boys and stay longer.

Meeting of Southern Agricultural Workers Atlanta, Georgia, February 21 to 25.

Arrangements are being made for a very important meeting of the Horticultural Section of the Southern Agricultural Workers at Atlanta, and it is hoped that many of the southern horticultural extension workers can be present. The sweet potato will again receive special attention on the program but there are a number of problems relative to extension methods as applied to horticulture that need to be presented and thoroughly discussed. The committee on horticultural extension are responding heartily to our request for suggestions and we will have something tentative to present at the meeting. Meet us at Atlanta.

American Society for Horticultural Science.

The A. S. H. S. had a splendid meeting in Toronto with about 60 members present. The program was an unusually good one. There were 6 addresses on extension phases of horticultural work but owing to the absence of 2 members, only 4 of these papers were read. Messrs. Marshall and Farrand discussed extension work in fruit growing in Michigan. Messrs. Prettyman and Vandervort gave a second report on the demonstration community packing house in West Virginia. Prof. Ralston of Virginia discussed fruit production as influenced by the time of application of nitrogenous fertilizers. Prof. H. A. Cardinell told about the control of the striped cucumber beetle and anthracnose on watermelons by use of dust spraying in Missouri. Owing to the absence of Messrs. Oscamp of New York and Gifford of Wisconsin, two very interesting extension papers were not given, but these will appear in the annual report of the Society.

Agricultural Conference.

The big agricultural conference held in Washington at the call of the President and the Secretary of Agriculture, has been productive of great good in that it has brought forth a free expression of opinions and given a better understanding of the real agricultural situation. One point which stood out above all others was that something must be done to increase the buying power of the farmers' dollar, also that the wheels of distribution must be greased in order that the farmer may get a larger share of the consumers' dollar. The conference recognized the services of transportation and distribution agencies but sought a remedy for abuses of the system. Cooperative organization of the farmers was proposed as the most important factor in the solution of the agricultural problem for the future.

Closer Cooperation.

We would like even closer cooperation with state specialists this year than ever before. We must confess some disappointment because more of the men do not write us in response to our requests for information for use in the "Extension Horticulturist." Let us have anything good that should be passed along to the others. Don't forget that we always give full credit for everything.

W. R. Beattie,
Extension Horticulturist.

C. P. Glose,
Extension Pomologist.

